

## **Legislative Bulletin.....February 24, 2009**

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### **H.Res. 18—Recognizes the life, achievements and contributions of Paul Newman (*Cohen, D-TN*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 18 would express that the House of Representatives:

- "Honors the life and accomplishments of Paul Newman for his many contributions to American film, theater, and philanthropy."

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- "Paul Newman, a great American actor, film director, entrepreneur, humanitarian, and automobile racing enthusiast, passed away on September 26, 2008;
- "Paul Newman was born on January 26, 1925, in Shaker Heights, Ohio;
- "Following his service in the Navy during World War II in the Pacific theater, Paul Newman completed his degree at Kenyon College and later at the Yale School of Drama;
- "Paul Newman is considered one of America's most accomplished actors and his career in film and on stage spanned over fifty years;
- "Paul Newman was nominated for ten Oscars, winning Best Actor in 1986 for his role in *The Color of Money* and two honorary Oscars, the Humanitarian Award in 1993 and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1985;
- "Paul Newman brought life to many memorable characters, including 'Hud', 'Cool Hand Luke', 'Butch Cassidy', 'Henry Gondorff', and 'Fast Eddie';
- "In 1982, Paul Newman co-founded Newman's Own, a premium food and beverage company that began with salad dressings and has expanded to over 150 varieties of all-natural food and beverage products;

- “Paul Newman was a dedicated philanthropist, donating all of the profits from Newman's Own sales for educational and charitable purposes, totaling over \$250,000,000 in donations;
- “Paul Newman founded eleven Hole in the Wall camps around the world, named for the outlaw gang made famous by Newman's portrayal of Butch Cassidy in Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, and dedicated to providing free recreation to children with cancer and other serious illnesses;
- “Paul Newman founded the Scott Newman Foundation for the prevention of drug abuse in 1978 after the death of his son;
- “Paul Newman was a successful racecar driver and well-rounded athlete, winning several Sports Car Club of America national driving titles and competing in Daytona in 1995 on the occasion of his 70th birthday;
- “Paul Newman was beloved by his family, friends, and neighbors for his great generosity, good humor, and spirited charm; and
- “Paul Newman's humanitarian works and incomparable talents have made him an American icon who will never be forgotten.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 18 was introduced on January 6, 2009 and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported by unanimous consent on February 11, 2009.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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## **H.Res.83—Recognizing the significance of Black History Month (*Green, D-TX*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 83 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes the significance of Black History Month as an important time to recognize the contributions of African-Americans in the Nation's history, and encourages the continued celebration of this month to provide an opportunity for all peoples of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and
- “Recognizes that the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States enriches and strengthens the Nation.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “The first Africans were brought involuntarily to the shores of America as early as the 17th century;
- “These Africans in America and their descendants are now known as African-Americans;
- “African-Americans suffered involuntary servitude and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of basic, fundamental rights;
- “Despite involuntary servitude, African-Americans have made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, religious, scientific, and technological advancement of the Americas;
- “In the face of injustices, United States citizens of good will and of all races distinguished themselves with their commitment to the noble ideals upon which the United States was founded and courageously fought for the rights and freedom of African-Americans;
- “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lived and died to make real these noble ideals;
- “The greatness of the United States is reflected in the historic election of Barack Obama, an American of African ancestry, to the Office of the President of the United States of America;
- “The birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;
- “Negro History Week represented the culmination of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's efforts to enhance knowledge of black history started through the Journal of Negro History, published by Woodson's Association for the Study of African-American Life and History; and
- “The month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievement of Black Americans.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 83 was introduced on January 23, 2009 and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported by unanimous consent on February 11, 2009.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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**S.234—Designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2105 East Cook Street in Springfield, Illinois, as the “Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. Post Office Building”. (*Durbin, D - IL*)**

**Order of Business:** S. 234 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** S. 234 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2105 East Cook Street in Springfield, Illinois, as the “Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. Post Office Building”

**Additional Information:** According to the bill's sponsor, Col. John H Wilson enlisted in World War II in 1942 and served in five battle campaigns in Europe; including in General Patton's advance in France, for which he was awarded the Silver Star Medal. In addition to 14 years of active duty service, he served for 17 years in the Illinois Reserves. He served as group commander in Springfield from 1967-1973 and was promoted to Colonel in 1965, making him the first African-American to achieve that rank in the Illinois Reserves at that time. Col. Wilson worked for the United States Postal Service for 57 years in his civilian life. He passed away on August 30, 2008 and is survived by his wife and two daughters.

**Committee Action:** S. 234 was introduced on January 14, 2009 and referred to the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. The committee ordered the bill to be reported by Unanimous Consent on February 11, 2009. S. 234 passed the full Senate by unanimous consent on February 12, 2009.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy was provided.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for S. 234 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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